

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending.

The Office has required restriction between the following groups (Office Action, page 2, lines 1-7):

Group I, claims 1-16;

Group II, claim 17; and

Group III, claim 18.

The Office has also required election of a species as follows:

If Group I is elected, the Office requires election of Species A (compositions wherein epoxide rings are present as in claim 9) and Species B (ring opening compositions excluding epoxides) (Office Action, paragraph bridging pages 3-4). If Group II is elected, the Office requires election of Species A (using ethylenically unsaturated compounds obtained from epoxy compounds) and Species B (using specified cationic photoinitiators) (Office Action, page 4, last paragraph).

Applicants elect with traverse Group I, claims 1-16, and Species A of claim 9 (compositions wherein epoxide rings are present).

Applicants request that if the Office finds no relevant prior art for the above species in the compositions of claim 9, the Office will continue to search and examine the remaining species through claim 1, the claim generic to claim 9, until that generic claim is considered non-allowable. M.P.E.P. § 809.02 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.146.

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." M.P.E.P. § 803.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction and election requirements because a search and examination of all the claims in their entirety would not impose a serious burden upon the Office. The claims relate to liquid radiation-curable compositions and methods wherein the compositions are exposed to radiation. Since a thorough search of any of Groups I-III would require searching the art areas appropriate to the others, a search of all the claims would not be unduly burdensome. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Office withdraw the restriction/election requirement, and examine all of the claims in their entirety.

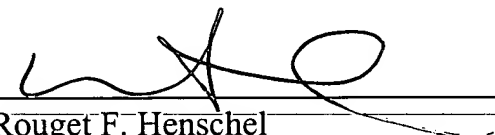
Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits. If the Office has questions, the Office is invited to call Applicants' Representative directly at (202) 974-6018.

Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 12-2475 for all fees as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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